

Charleston

DISTRICT DISPATCH

"Just Doing It"


VOLUME 24


ISSUE I



 THE DISTRICT'S SOUTHERN
GENTLEMAN RETIRES

 CITADEL HONORS DISTRICT
WITH PARADE

 A COLLABORATION OF MANY
AGENCIES BRINGS BIO-
ENGINEERING TO THE AIWW

 50TH CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
VISITS CHARLESTON
DISTRICT

 CHANGE IS GOOD
IM HELPDESK

 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE HITS
A HOMERUN WITH 4 EVENT



March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb (or vice versa). For Charleston District, I think it came and left like a lion. The month roared in with The Citadel honoring us with a retreat parade. As I proudly stood as the Reviewing Officer of the weekly Citadel retreat parade, I thought "How did I get here." Like so many other parades I have participated in, my thoughts wandered as I waited for the endless salutes and annoying, persistent "no see ums." As I stood there it was easy to remember the good things that have happened during my tenure as your Commander. I hoped that I would represent you well and you would be proud of your association with the Charleston District. The parade was something to feel good about. It was honoring the hard work and dedication of the District in executing our mission. It was also another step in the growing relationship with The Citadel that will continue long after I'm gone.

Ending the month with a bang, the 50th Chief on Engineers visited the District on March 27. As is the Charleston tradition, our people were the center of it all. As I talked to the Chief on the way back to the airport, he told me what a great team of folks Charleston District has. He

Commanders Corner

was genuinely impressed with our team effort and our ability to execute our program. We have always been the most efficient at program execution and now the Chief knows the people responsible for this great feat. LTG Flowers recognized some of our folks for doing great work by awarding them a Chief of Engineers coin. He really understands that it's the people of the Corps doing their job day in and day out that makes the Corps a great place to work (something we have always known). I want to thank everyone who made the Chief's visit a success, from the van drivers to Bruce and his staff, to each of you. I know the Chief will remember his visit to Charleston.


As you heard from the Chief, Charleston is important to the Corps. We have great projects underway, and many others in the study phase. Regional workload sharing is becoming a reality, which means more direct charge work for the District. I know that my successor is coming into a program that is healthy and poised for success. With the great folks we have and the challenging work that lies ahead, I look forward to hearing of your many successes over the coming years.

The Mini-Hearing and METL Briefing with MG Anderson went well last week. In fact, MG Anderson said that we are two years ahead in the process, compared to other district's he's worked with in the past. The two big March events, as well as the briefings with MG Anderson last week, started me thinking about my future. As my time here grows shorter, I start to think about all the great things I have experienced as

Commander of the Charleston District. The list grows longer the more I think about it, covering up some of the more difficult times. With that in mind let me list some thoughts that I am most proud of:

1. The Chief came...both of them.
2. You can have three headquarters in 18 months and everybody doesn't have to kill each other in the process.
3. You don't have to employ half of the town to have a good team!
4. Small districts should not have to be second class citizens and training, awards and opportunities should be available.
5. Your reputation can make a difference. In my case, your reputation probably saved my job on more than one occasion.
6. Stick to your guns when you know you are right. We were "just doing it" before they issued the card.
7. Charleston is family and we can call each other names but no one else can.
8. And finally, in my career, it won't ever get any better than this.

And this is just the beginning of the list. You'll all hear more from this list as the number of days I have left in the District shrinks. But I'm not just looking back, I'm also looking forward. We have some great things scheduled in the coming months. There's the Wing Cook-off, Unity Day, BBQ and Baseball, and Corps Day just to name a few. And there's also many sunny Saturday's that will be great for fishing, so you know where I'll be.

Enjoy the Spring in Charleston! I know I will. 

Equal Opportunity Moment

By Barbara Gathers EEO


CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS (CO2) PROGRAM

The Chief of Staff for the Army directed Army-wide implementation of the Consideration of Others (CO2) Program as a means of enhancing or improving human relations. CO2 is a tool used to create and maintain a climate in which people treat one another with dignity and respect. It is defined as "those actions that indicate a sensitivity to and a regard for the feelings and needs of others and an awareness of the impact of one's own behavior on them". The program aims to foster and maintain a positive command climate.

Topics, generated from headquarters USACE, will cover a broad range of issues that deal with human relations, i.e., communications process; conflict management; cultural diversity;

EEO complaint procedures; extremism and extremist organizations; group development theory; prevention of sexual harassment; racism and sexism; religious accommodation; values, attitudes, behavior and self-awareness; etc.

The CO2 sessions are held quarterly and are led by


employees in the District who serve as facilitators. Facilitators for the Charleston District include Melvin Acevedo, Vernard Cleveland, Charlie Crosby, John Kassebaum, Debbie King, Chris Mack, Lisa Metheney, Ron Nesbit, Gail Simmons, and Joe Wilson. All managers, supervisors, team leaders, and employees are expected to attend and participate in CO2 and to provide feedback on each session. 

THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAMS

The Special Emphasis Programs (SEP) are designed to improve employment and advancement opportunities for minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities and to promote cultural awareness of and a sensitivity to a diverse workforce.

The Special Emphasis Program Committee, in conjunction with the CPAC Office, sponsored a Brown Bag Luncheon on Wednesday, 28 February 2001 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The topic, "RESUMIX: Everything you wanted to know about it, but were afraid to ask" included tips for preparing a resume and instructions for preparing and submitting the self-nomination form. Approximately 30 employees attended the session and were given expert advice on the RESUMIX System.



The SEP Committee will sponsor a Unity Day Program on Tuesday, 17 April 2001 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The theme for this occasion is "Celebrating Our Diversity," and the guest speaker will be Mayor Joseph P. Riley. 

The SEP Committee consists of

Barbara Gathers - EEO Manager

Joseph Wilson - Chairman
Jackie Easterling - Vice Chairwoman

Yvette Jenkins - Recorder

Frank Russell - Black Employment and Native American Program Manager

Saulo Gaspi - Asian/Pacific American and Hispanic Employment Program Manager

Diresert Haynes - Federal Women's Program Manager

Barbara Britz - Member

Vernard Cleveland - Member

Patricia Miller - Member

Cynthia Ruddy - Member

Gail Simmons - Member

Angela Williams - Member

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
LTC Held "The 3 Strikes and your out law to be enforced, and oh yes, world peace." (A quote from Miss Congeniality)

50th Chief of Engineers Visits Charleston District



Just nine months after the last Chief of Engineers' visit, 50th Chief of Engineers LTG Robert Flowers paid a visit to the District. Awaiting him on 27 March was over 100 folks ready to listen to his remarks, ask some hard questions, and share some of the best barbecue in the State of South Carolina. All of these things, and then some, occurred. The Chief left the District with a greater understanding of the District, a big smile on his face, and a belly full of barbecue.

The Chief's visit to the District actually began in Wilmington. There LTC Held, accompanied by DDPM Elmer Schwingen, Design Branch Chief Mark Nelson and Lisa Metheney, boarded the General's plane for an informational flight to Charleston. "I had heard what a people person the Chief was and how he liked his briefings," said LTC Held. "Since I was only allowed to take a couple of people with me, I chose regular folks who could talk about the many facets

of the District and would engage the Chief in discussion." While Wilmington and Savannah had large, formal briefings, the District's approach was less formal and more conversational. The discussion flowed from hiring practices to CMR indicators to current projects. Each person was able to give an example that showed the District's ability to accomplish a variety of work with such a small staff. By the time the 35-minute plane ride was over, the Chief had a good background of the types of folks he would meet and a better understanding of how efficient the Charleston District program is.

After arriving at the District office, LTG Flowers went straight to the Alumni Building to begin his Town Hall meeting. He started with a brief introduction of himself and then, as is his customary way of doing things, moved straight ahead into his briefing. He touched on several topics, from Army transformation

and what it means to the Corps to the Upper Mississippi Study and its ramifications.

One of the last parts of the presentation was a video highlighting the people of the Corps of Engineers. Set to the music of Bob Seger's *Like a Rock*, the video showed photos of Corps people from all over the world doing their job to execute the Corps' missions. It also had fun photos of things like holiday parties, Little League coaching and other activities that Corps people participate in. "He really portrayed a sense of family in the Corps," commented one attendee. Mitch Hall echoed that theme, saying, "His presentation was really good - made us feel like we are all a team."

After the presentation things really became fun. To assess everyone's situational awareness, the Chief started asking people in the audience questions relating to the District's history. Diane Carter was the first person called on. "All I was thinking was 'Please don't call on me' and then I was the first one," she said. Diane did not answer her question correctly and was brought to the front of the room. Each person was told if they missed their question, their supervisor would have to do pushups. "All that went through my mind was 'Tina's going to have to do pushups,'" chuckled Travis Hughes of Regulatory. "I'm glad she didn't have to, and the coin was nice too." Diane and Travis were two of the 12 people who ended up in the


front of the room. What seemed like random luck (or bad luck as some would say) was actually a carefully designed plot to recognize these folks for the good job they do day in and day out. Each person was presented with a Chief of Engineers' coin in recognition of their achievements.

After a question and answer period where LTG Flowers addressed topics such as contracting percentages, extending LTC Held's tour, and the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding wetlands, everyone moved to the third floor conference room for lunch. Bruce Seltzer of Emergency Management was the PM for the lunch (some say PM stood for Pork Manager). Bruce and a staff of volunteers served barbeque, cole slaw, baked beans and potato chips to 107 hungry people. Desserts were provided by many District volunteers. During lunch, several members of the District were seated with LTG Flowers and MG Anderson. This was another opportunity for people to meet our leaders and discuss things with them. Everyone was pleased with the luncheon. Commented one person, "It was nice to see the whole district invited to lunch. So often when the Generals visit, the lunches and receptions are for 'senior management' only. This time everyone had a chance to meet our leaders and say what's on our minds."

Immediately after lunch the Chief had to depart for the airport to catch his flight to Savannah. He reported to LTC Held that he enjoyed his visit to Charleston and enjoyed meeting all the folks

who keep it running. And the people of the District enjoyed his visit too. The overwhelming response from people was that LTG Flowers is a very personable man who has the best interest of the Corps employees at heart. Many folks enjoyed the people video and the Chief's willingness to discuss the Upper Mississippi Study candidly. And everyone enjoyed the barbecue, if not for the food (believe it or not some people don't eat barbecue) then for the atmosphere.

LTC Held was asked to give his impression of the visit. He said he believes the Chief has a good understanding of the Charleston District, its challenges and tri-

umphs. He was "delighted" to see LTG Flowers take notice that the District is the most efficient in the Corps person for dollar. He believes we showed our best side, that we are more a family than an organization, and it's that uniqueness which makes us great. He was also pleased with The Chief's stellar defense of the Corps to Congress and his adamant recognition that the people in the Upper Mississippi Study were just hard working people trying to do their job. "There was one thing in the presentation that struck me," stated LTC Held. "It was the slide with McArthur's quote that the Corps' greatest legacy is our ability to say no when no needs to be said. This is a slide that is going in my personal book of inspiring words." LTC Held's final thought about the visit, "My morale was definitely lifted. I am grateful to have a Chief like this right now. He makes it easy to do the right thing." 

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Elmer Schwingen "A shallow fishing lake for the Colonel so that when he sinks his boat he can walk home. A finger for Truelove or hair for myself."



The District's Southern Gentleman Retires



There were many teary eyes in the room as the District gathered to celebrate Francis Limbaker's retirement. Francis, a Project Manager for Civil Works, retired January 3, 2001, after serving 32 years in the federal government. During his time with the District, Francis was not only a colleague, but to many he was also a walking library, a mentor and most importantly a friend. Francis, described by many as "a true Southern gentleman," will be greatly missed in the District.

Francis began his career in the Corps as a student in Surveying. Over the years he worked his way up the ranks, working on a wide variety of projects. Francis became a key player in many Corps projects intended to foster the economic growth, safety and well-being of many people across the state. As a Project Manager, he directed the \$116 million Folly Beach and \$140 million Myrtle Beach storm damage reduction projects. "To the people of Folly Beach and Horry County, Francis WAS the Corps of Engineers," commented Mark Nelson. "Everyone who met Francis immediately trusted him." The environment of the state has greatly benefited

from his management of the modification to the St. Stephen fishlift. "Francis was so patient in working with the resource agencies on this project," said Sara Brown. "He was always calm and cool under pressure and made everyone around him calm. He's one of my favorite people and I wish he hadn't retired."

Everyone from outside the Corps who worked with Francis respected his work and valued his opinion. Congressmen, as well as their staff members, know Francis by name and speak highly of his contributions to South Carolina. Joe Maupin, a senior staff member with Senator Hollings office, was present at Francis' retirement ceremony and spoke highly of both Francis' work and Francis himself. He said he considered Francis "a friend" and was sorry to see him leave the Corps but wished him well on his retirement.

Many Corps employees share Mr. Maupin's sentiments. The people he worked with in Project Management had a difficult time talking about Francis' contributions. Many said there were too many things to say and that they couldn't narrow it down to one or two things. Gary

McAlister summed it up best. "Francis always had an upbeat attitude. That's what I remember most about him."

Francis had an impact on everyone in the District— new employees and "senior" employees, planners, regulators, engineers, project managers, administrative staff— there is no one in the District that doesn't have a favorite Francis story to tell. All the stories have the same theme though. Francis took care of the customers, advised junior employees on technical matters, advised senior employees on political relationships, and always maintained a great attitude. As one person best stated it, "Francis is an example to us all by standing up to life's challenges with a smile."

Retirement will not be an idle time for our Mr. Limbaker. Francis already has plans to go on a cruise, as well as take several bird-watching trips. He also plans to spend many hours "managing" his wood-working hobby. We are pretty sure Francis's wife Margie also has some retirement plans for her husband.

The Corps commends Francis for his dedicated service and the many accomplishments he has made throughout his career. His technical expertise, in combination with his leadership, has earned him many honors and awards. The entire Charleston team will miss him tremendously. Enjoy your retirement, Francis!

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Linda Shealy "Wishes that everyone could know the real meaning of Easter"

Castle Club Events

February Is a Time for Oysters

Over 50 people turned out for the Castle Club Oyster Roast on February 9. This was the largest turnout in the history of the event. This year's roast was held here at the building, a change from previous years. The roasts had traditionally been held on James Island at Fort Johnson. "We wanted to hold the roast here because we felt it would be easier for more people to attend," said Charlie Crosby, President of the Castle Club. A total of 15 bushels of oysters were roasted, and there wasn't a single one left at the end of the evening. For those who aren't oyster connoisseurs, Chef Charlie provided hamburgers and hot dogs. Drinks and desserts were also provided as part of the meal. Many people in the District were pleased with the event. "The oysters were good and my wife and son had a great time," commented Mitch Hall of Hydraulics and Hydrology Section. "It was nice to bring the family," added fellow H&H employee Doug Marcy. "My wife was able to meet a lot of Corps employees." There was one tense moment during the festivities when Jim Henderson's son James took a nasty spill down the front steps. He received a big knot on his forehead, but other than that he was fine. No other injuries were reported.


The Castle Club made a small profit, which will be used to help offset the cost of other activities

this year, such as the Christmas Party. The Castle Club would like to thank all those who attended.

Corps Holiday Party 2000

The Castle Club sponsored another fabulous Christmas Party on December 15. It was a huge success in many ways. There was a plethora of delicious food, which over the years has come to be expected. Despite the fact that the party was held in the middle of December, a month when many people are on leave, the turnout was high. But probably the greatest success of the event was the ease in which the luncheon was coordinated. It was a lesson in teamwork, with many people doing a little of the work. Areas of responsibility were divided up, and volunteers took charge of coordinating the efforts of who would provide what category of food. Joe Jones headed the bread committee, which provided soft rolls and homemade cornbread. Di Haynes and Jean Wallace made sure we had enough side dishes and vegetables to round out the meal. There were green beans, peas, corn, several casseroles, fruit trays, cheese balls and many other dishes. Margie Brown had the best job-coordinating the desserts. If anyone couldn't find something they liked, well they just didn't try hard enough. Charlie Crosby coordinated the overall event and made sure an adequate amount of meat

dishes were provided. And Charlie didn't disappoint. Jim Henderson prepared four flavors of deep fried turkey to go along with the ham, chicken and venison donated by other folks. Amy Henke took care of the food layout for the luncheon and provided appropriate music. Aarin Bond kept the employees in an orderly fashion by providing crowd control. And everybody, including non-club members, pitched in for cleanup.


The Holiday Party is a great time for all of us to celebrate completing another year of working together to advance the Corps' mission. The Castle Club would like to thank everyone who helped with the luncheon as either a coordinator or a donator. We will look for you again next year. 



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
John Kassebaum "The Easter Bunny to tell my dog to quit digging holes in the backyard."

Castle Club Events

Pain of Daylight Savings Time Eased With Omelets

For many folks, coming to work on Monday after Daylight Savings Time can be difficult. Our bodies haven't adjusted to the time change and we are still out of sorts from missing that one-hour of sleep on Sunday morning. To help people get the week started on a good note, the Castle Club and the Scholarship Committee sponsored a breakfast on 2 April. Some people planned for the event and others were lured in by the yummy smells wafting from the back patio. Charlie Crosby was the chef, preparing grits, bacon, sausage, toast and eggs to order. Western omelets were his specialty and many were served that morning. For those looking for lighter fare, muffins and biscuits were available. Once the meal was over and everything tallied up, Charlie and volunteers had served EIGHT -dozen eggs, four pounds of ham, five pounds of bacon, four pounds of sausage and two-dozen biscuits. A profit of \$50 was realized and was split between the Scholarship Committee and the Castle Club. 



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Mark Phillips "A \$50 million contract that does not involve a dredge."

Employee of the Month




Debbie Ward is First District Employee of the Month

As part of a new program initiated by LTC Held, the District has its first Employee of the Month (EOTM). Debbie Ward, the Accounting Officer in Resource Management, was honored in a small ceremony on March 5. Debbie said she is "thrilled, and very honored" to be the first Employee of the Month. Debbie's regular duties are to direct all accounting operations for the District, to ensure cost records are accurate, and to ensure compliance with Appropriations Law. Ms. Ward has worked for the District for 15 years and entered her current position in June 2000. She was previously employed with the Corps as a co-op student in the Wilmington District and then worked in northern Virginia at the Corps' HECSA office. She wanted to move south and, lucky for us, Charleston had a vacancy. Debbie says what impresses her the most about the Corps

is "the professionalism of the people and the family-like atmosphere across the Corps."

The Employee of the Month is selected by the commander from a pool of nominations made by the Division Chiefs and the Ombudsman. The EOTM is someone who shows dedication and diligence in furthering the District's mission during the previous month. In recognition of the selection, the Employee of the Month is given a certificate, a print of our new building, a District coin, and use of the EOTM parking spot next to the building. Congratulations to Debbie from everyone in the District.

Peggy Garten is March Employee of the Month

Peggy Garten of PM was announced as the March Employee of the Month in a brief ceremony on April 2. Peggy said she feels "fabulous" to be the Employee of the Month. Her regular duties are processing all of the District's funds, setting up all the work items, and preparing the District's budget submissions. She also prepares fact sheets and briefings and provides information for Congressional interests. Mrs. Garten has worked for the District for 20 years. Peggy says what impresses her most about the Corps is "the opportunities available, if we partake of them, to advance." 



Citadel Honors District with Parade

The Charleston District was front and center on Friday 9 March as The Citadel conducted a parade in our honor. This honor, a first for the District, was an initial step in cultivating a closer relationship with the college that is our neighbor and whose alumni association is our landlord. Seated next to the parade line, team members had a great view of all of the parade activities, including the pass in review that ended the ceremony.

Most Fridays The Citadel Cadets conduct a parade at Summerall Field. The parades are a requirement for the cadets, where they are graded by their superior officers on a number of criteria, such as marching in step, correct rifle alignment, execution of turns, and proper arm swing. The parades, even though required, are often held in honor of visiting dignitaries or to acknowledge other military groups. LTC Held represented the District and served as reviewing officer. LTC Held was extremely honored to serve in this capacity. "The President of the Citadel, MG Grinalds, told me I was the first LTC in his memory to have the honor (of the reviewing officer). I was very proud of this fact and proud to represent the District."

The tradition of parading troops dates back to the time of Alexander the Great. The parades were a way to drill

procedures and movements that would be used on the battlefield. The parades promoted precision and discipline among the units, in addition to providing a level of practice that made maneuvers second nature in battle. This tradition continued through time and was used by Revolutionary War soldiers in places like Valley Forge. In the modern military, parade ceremonies are conducted to render honors and preserve tradition. So steeped in tradition are many parades that the ones conducted by the Citadel Cadets are almost identical to the procedures outlined in Baron Von Steuben's manual, The Blue Book, used by the Revolutionary War soldiers. In fact, the cadet regulations to this day are still referred to as The Blue Book. The fife, drum, bugle and bagpipes have had a significant role in military history, serving as a signal both in camp and on the battlefield. This significance is honored during The Citadel parades by the presence of the regimental band.

Friday's cadet parade began with the Sounding of Attention followed

by Adjutants Call. The regimental band then played retreat, one round was fired, and the band played The Star Spangled Banner. Following the anthem, the cadets executed the Manual of Arms. Next the Adjutants reported that all cadets were present or accounted for and returned to their battalions. The Officers of the Corps of Cadets, accompanied by the Unit Colors and Company Guidons, then marched to the center of the field to report to the Regiment-

**What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Fred South "rotten egg"**



photos by Russell Pace; Citadel




photos by Russell Pace; Citadel

tal Commander. Battalions were then brought to attention and arms were presented in preparation for honors. MG Grinalds and LTC Held took their places for review. The crowd was asked to stand as honors were rendered with the firing of 13 rounds. In preparation for the pass in review, MG Grinalds offered LTC Held the position of honor as the reviewing officer. Each battalion commander then led his cadets past LTC Held and acknowledged him as the reviewing officer. As the companies did this, they were also graded on their performance. After all companies, as well as the regimental band, passed in review, the cere-

mony was completed. A reception at the President's house followed for LTC Held and members of his staff. "The Corps of Cadets looked good and I was impressed with their display of discipline and precision," commented LTC Held.

Members of the District were also quite impressed with the ceremony. Several team members noted the precision with which the cadets executed the parade. "The young folks were well disciplined," commented Bob Chap-

pell of Planning Branch. "I never marched that well when I was in the Air Force." The parade brought back memories of past military days for other folks in the District. "The parade was great, wonderful! It reminded me of my young Marine days on the parade deck in Pensacola," Bruce Seltzer reminisced. He continued, "My wife really enjoyed it. So much, in fact, that we are planning on attending another one very soon." The District has several graduates of The Cit-

adel who had positive comments about the parade. "I was quite impressed to see the standards being held up," said Joe Wilson. While Joe was not a cadet during his tenure at The Citadel, he does remember those days fondly. "It was good to see women and minorities represented in the officer ranks. I wish my kids could have made it to the parade." Keith Ellmers, a Citadel graduate whose son also graduated from The Citadel, said the parade was nice but it didn't make him want to run back on the field and participate. "I had my share of marching when I was a cadet. It was nice to see it from the chairs. When my son was there, I usually stood at the end of the field where he was." "It was nice to see the traditions still carrying on," he concluded. 



photos by Russell Pace; Citadel

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Gwen Diehl (Major's wife) "a house on the battery"

SAFETY LINE

Mark Turner

Severe Weather Safety

Tornado Safety - If a tornado were approaching, would you know what to do?

Tornadoes are the most violent atmospheric phenomenon on the planet. Winds of 200-300 mph can occur with the most violent tornadoes. The following are instructions on what to do when a tornado warning has been issued for your area or whenever a tornado threatens:

IN HOMES OR SMALL BUILDINGS: Go to the basement (if available) or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect you from flying debris.

IN CARS OR MOBILE HOMES: ABANDON THEM IMMEDIATELY!! Most deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you are in either of those locations, leave them and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter.

IF NO SUITABLE STRUCTURE IS NEARBY: Lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head.

Flash Flood Safety - Do you know what to do if you see water crossing over a roadway?

Flash floods and floods are the #1 weather related killer with around 140 deaths recorded in the U.S each year.

Flash flood safety rules:

WHEN INSIDE: If ordered to evacuate or if rising water is threatening, leave immediately and get to higher ground!

IF CAUGHT OUTDOORS: Go

to higher ground immediately! Avoid small rivers or streams, low spots, canyons, dry riverbeds, etc. Do not try to walk through flowing water more than ankle deep! Do not allow children to play around streams, drainage ditches or viaducts, storm drains, or other flooded areas!

IF IN A VEHICLE: DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS--even if it looks shallow enough to cross. The large majority of deaths due to flash flooding are due to people driving through flooded areas. Water only one foot deep can displace 1,500 lbs! Two feet of water can EASILY carry most automobiles! Roadways concealed by floodwaters may not be intact.

Lightning Safety - Do you know what to do if you are caught in the open during a thunderstorm or you feel tingling or your hair standing on end?

Lightning causes around 100 deaths in the U.S annually (more than hurricanes and tornadoes combined).

General lightning safety rules:

WHEN INSIDE: Avoid using the telephone (except for emergencies) or other electrical appliances. Do not take a bath or shower.

IF CAUGHT OUTDOORS: Go to a safe shelter immediately--such as inside a sturdy building. A hardtop automobile with the windows up can also offer fair protection. If you are boating or swimming, get out of the water immediately and move to a safe shelter away from the water! If you are in a wooded area, seek shelter under a thick growth of relatively small trees.

If you feel your hair standing on end, squat down with your head between your knees. Do not lie flat! Avoid isolated trees or other tall objects, bodies of water, sheds, fences, convertible automobiles, tractors, and motorcycles.

Are You Ready for a Thunderstorm? Here's what you can do to prepare yourself and your family.

Before Lightning Strikes - Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for the latest weather forecasts.

If Someone is Struck by Lightning - People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. Call for help. Get someone to dial 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) number. The injured person has received an electrical shock and may be burned, both where they were struck and where the electricity left their body. Check for burns in both places. Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR.

LEARN FIRST AID AND CPR. TAKE A RED CROSS FIRST AID AND CPR COURSE. 

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Maj Diehl "jet ski"

Scholarship Committee Events




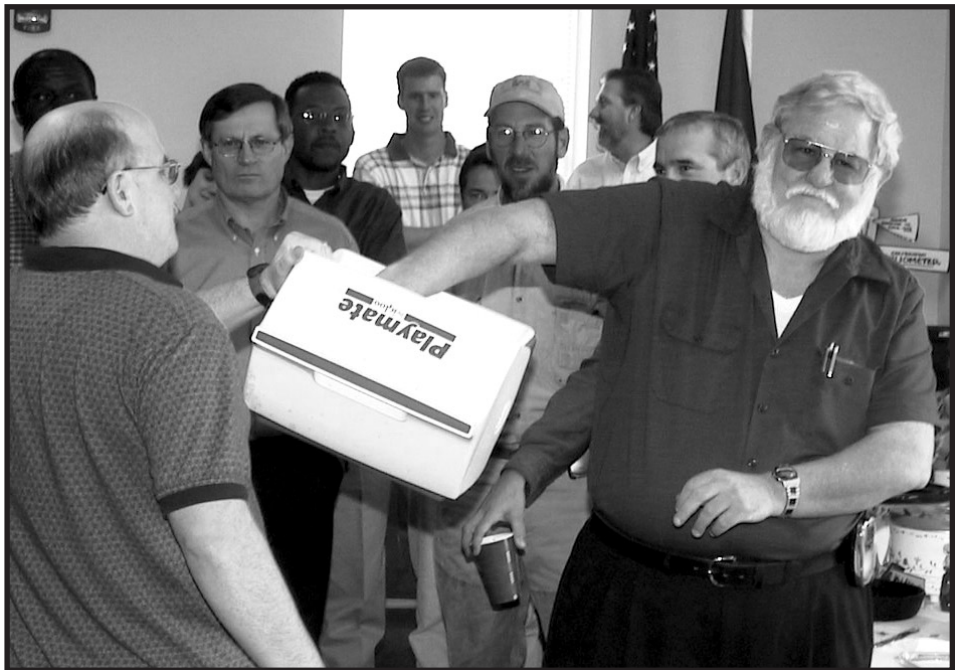
A Little Piece of Italy

Red tablecloths, burning candles and some Italian music playing in the background set the scene for the Scholarship Committee's Spaghetti Luncheon held on March 2. Over 40 people participated in the event aimed at raising money for the Scholarship Fund. Participants had the choice of two sauces. Jim "Meatball" Whiteman served up his famous spicy meat sauce while Lisa "I'm Not Italian" Metheney provided a meatless marinara thick with vegetables. The meal was rounded out with salad and hot buttered bread. Soft drinks were served by Paul "Sommelier" Hinchcliff. When asked about his thoughts on the Spaghetti Luncheon, Major Diehl had this to say: "I never understood why people wasted so much time making their own sauce when you can just get it out of the jar. Now (after attending) I understand and its worth it and I'll have to teach my wife how to do it." The Committee would like to thank everyone who participated and helped the event raise \$117 for the Scholarship Fund. 

Feeding a Sweet Tooth

February 14 is Valentine's Day, a day that brings thoughts of hearts, flowers, chocolate candy and romantic cards. This year the Scholarship Committee asked people to "Treat Yourself or Your Sweetie" and support a good cause at the same time. The Scholarship Committee's Annual Bake Sale attracted just about every person in the district as they sold goodies donated by various bakers in the District. There was a large assortment of items, everything from cupcakes to muffins to cookies on a stick. The hottest item, selling out in less than an hour, was Mary Sue Doran's coconut cake. Her brownies were

a close second though. Due to overwhelming demand, Mary Sue volunteered to donate a coconut cake to the Chili Cook-off Giveaway. Amy Henke benefited doubly from the bake sale. Not only did she buy some items for herself, she also purchased a large heart-shaped brownie, which she used later that evening as a dessert for a dinner. "For those of us who are not domestic, it made Valentine's Day really easy," Henke said. The large turnout for the bake sale added \$187 to the Scholarship Fund. The Committee would like to thank all the bakers who gave of their talent and the participants who gave of their dollars. 



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Cindy Biller "To go back to Maui"

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Nia Dozier "A basket of three eggs containing, a stronger relationship with God, good health, and happiness and relaxation."

Scholarship Committee Events

Paul Hinchcliff is Two-Time Chili Champ

It was hot, hot, hot on March 14 as the Scholarship Committee hosted a fun filled fiesta in the third floor conference room. The annual Chili Cook-off drew nine entrants, each spicing it up in hopes of winning the coveted title of Top Chili Chef. People who were not culinary competitors, but who had a healthy dose of competitive spirit, exercised that desire by participating in the silent auction or the raffle.

The event technically started on March 12 when the committee began selling tickets for the 16 donated items. As usual, one of the most desired items was the handmade quilt donated by Robin Crosby. Other items available included several restaurant gift certificates, a 3-foot tall handmade Raggedy Ann doll, two fishing trips, surfing lessons, and a homemade coconut cake (a Mary Sue Doran specialty).

On the morning of the 14th, nine chefs brought their spicy delights to the conference room to let the panel of judges determine who would win the top prize. Judges Barbara Barnette, Jon Jellema



and Di Haynes took over 45 minutes to taste and re-taste each chili, rating them for overall smell, taste, appearance and spiciness. When the tasting was over and the scores tallied, Paul Hinchcliff of Regulatory and his Backdraft Chili were declared the winner. Paul successfully defended his title from last year, narrowly beating fellow regulator Travis Hughes. Rose Smalls of Contracting kept it from being a Regulatory Division sweep by finishing third with her "Hot Stuff" Chili. Other entrants were: Charlie Crosby, LTC Held, Amy Henke, Dean Herndon, John Kassebaum, and Debbie Ward.

Before the judging was complete, employees were lined up, ready to participate in the festivities. In addition to buying a bowl of chili, team members could also purchase bottled water, soft drinks, and ice cream. By the time lunch was over, ten crock pots of chili

had been consumed. But even folks who don't like chili attend the events. Sara Brown, Team Leader of Hydraulics and Hydrology commented, "Though I don't eat chili, I attended the festivities for the fun and games. A raffle for goodies always brings out a different and competitive side to people. Sure we're happy for our friends when they win, but we quietly (and some not so quietly) whisper our name seconds before the winner is chosen. We good-naturedly congratulate the person who got our coveted item, (Enjoy my quilt LTC Held!) and walk away happy because it was for a good cause."

But there was still more excitement. All during lunch people had been making bids on two signed



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Derald McMillan "A coin from the Colonel"

Scholarship Committee Events




saltwater fish prints that were donated by David Chamberlain. Bidding became intense as the close of the auction neared. Once the bids were reviewed, Pat Baremore and LTC Held were declared the winners. Next was the drawing for the 16 donated items. Carl Hilton facilitated the drawing. The winners are listed on the right.

The Chili Cook-off is the Scholarship Committee's biggest fundraiser-- this year yielding \$834 for the fund. Committee Chairman John Kassebaum said, "This was one of our best cook-offs yet. We had a lot of involvement from so many people; it just made everything go well."

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who participated, and especially

everyone who donated items or made chili. "I am extremely indebted to everyone on the committee for all the work they do for each event," commented Kassebaum. "It's the team work of everyone involved that makes these events successful." If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on the committee, please contact John Kassebaum.

The next event is a Wing Cook-Off scheduled for April 16. Hope to see you there! 



Two tickets to BBQ & Baseball game on May 11, 2001
Jake Duncan

Bass fishing trip w/picnic lunch
Gary McAlister

100 Egg Rolls
Paul Hinchcliff

Gift certificate to Charleston Crab House Restaurant
Larry Hanford

One coconut cake
Grace Dorn

Big Box of "Turtle Safe" laundry detergent
Major Diehl

Truck load of firewood
Barbara Britz

Hand tied saltwater flies
Daryl Grigsby

Freshwater fishing trip
Angie Williams

Gift certificate to La Fontana Restaurant
Elmer Schwingen

2 passes to Middleton Gardens
Any Henke

One quilt
LTC Held

Raggedy Ann doll
Barbara Britz

Gift certificate to T-Bonz Restaurant
Jim Truelove

Gift certificate to Tommy Condon's Restaurant
Tom Murphy

Surfing lessons (to be given on Corps Day)
Vernard Cleveland

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Tina Hadden "Mary Sue's Coconut Cake"

Scholarship Committee Events




After winning the quilt the Colonel makes a quick and graceful exit.

A Luncheon Worth Stewing Over

Usually the big question on February 2 is will he or won't he— see his shadow that is? It's an American tradition each year on the second day in February, Groundhog's Day, that Punxsutawney Phil crawls out of his hole and tells us whether there will be six more weeks of winter. This is based on the highly scientific prin-

ciple that if he sees his shadow it scares him back into his lair to wait out the six remaining weeks of winter. No shadow means spring is just around the corner.

The Scholarship Committee decided to celebrate Groundhog's Day with a luncheon. Since the local weather had been a bit chilly, a stew luncheon seemed in order. But in

order to give the day the attention it deserves, it had to be more than a luncheon. So, in the spirit of friendly competition, a challenge was issued. Give us your best "Groundhog" Stew recipe and let the district team members vote. The rules were simple, enter as many stew recipes as you wish, and the "groundhog" could be really any meat, not necessarily Phil's relatives. There were eight recipes submitted and when the voting was over (and no recounts were allowed) Mark Turner's 'Uncle Buck's Venison Stew' was the winner. Mark received a Charleston District hat in recognition of his triumph. Over 30 people enjoyed a lunch of beef stew, rice, bread and a sampling of Mary Sue's famous desserts. The Scholarship Committee raised \$108 from the lunch. The Committee would like to thank everyone that participated and give a special thanks to Mary Sue Doran for providing the delicious deserts. 



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Mary Sue "A healthy grand-baby"

Change is Good

By Tom Milne

So you have been on the same email system going on five years now and you are starting to use Lotus Notes like a professional, THEN IT IS TIME TO CHANGE. The South Atlantic Division is going to comply with the rest of the Corps by migrating their email systems to Microsoft Exchange with Microsoft Outlook software for the users.

Considering the fact that most human beings tend to be akin to packrats and very protective of all items considered to be theirs alone, you are probably asking what is going to happen to my Lotus Notes stuff. (STUFF is defined in this case as (1) folders created to hold email messages that are never again read; (2) archives saved to your hard drive that you can't remember where they are or how to open them; (3) caboodles of names entered with your very own little fingers in your private address book) Barring any unforeseen problems ALL of your stuff should be able to be converted over for your use in Microsoft Outlook. We would ask that you thin out anything that you now feel that you won't be needing, as that will speed up the conversion process and there is no reason to spend time converting items that you don't want in the first place. By the way, did I forget to mention all those messages still in your sent folder that need to disappear?

Many of you have computers at home and are already using one version or another of Microsoft Outlook-- for you the transition will be relatively painless; and as a bonus, if you have kids, you will have help

at home if you run into problems there. Even if you have never used Microsoft Outlook, I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how fast you will be able to pick up on the various nuances of the software.

Let me tell you about some of the features of Microsoft Outlook 2000:

1. Outlook includes standard Office 2000 productivity features such as Personalized Menus, Personalized Toolbars and Quick Customize Toolbars.



2. Users can manually apply a rule to any folder at any time. The built-in Rules Wizard offers significant enhancements to the add-on previously available.

3. Microsoft Word can serve as an e-mail editor, offering language AutoDetect spell check and proofing support.

4. Users can easily find and open a Contact from anywhere in Outlook.

5. Enhanced features for working with distribution lists offer smarter auto-pick of next free time and more.

6. Users can easily change the list of attendees for an already-scheduled meeting.

7. Before adding a new Contact, Outlook intelligently warns if it might be a duplicate and gives the option to automatically merge the new information.


Still not impressed, well here are some of the really important features:

1. You can either download, from numerous web sites, or create your own stationary for Outlook to use.

2. You can include animated graphics.

3. You can have an imbedded sound file so that the mail recipient is driven crazy by the sound of something such as Metallica.

4. Now I saved the best for last. Remember, this is an official government system that is subject to monitoring. Never put anything in email that you wouldn't want posted publicly to the web.

Now I know you are drooling in anticipation. We will be converting you as soon as we can. Let me give you some insight as to the scheduling of software rollout; users in office workgroups will be converted at the same time. If you are receiving a new computer, it will come configured for Outlook and you will be converted at that time. There is a user guide titled "Learning to use Microsoft Outlook email" posted on our intranet to help you with the transition. 

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?

Dave Kappel "Lots of Money from the Easter Bunny!"

Carl Hilton "Golden Eggs"

Lynn Schwingen "Volume control for Elmer"

Hail and Farewell

The District has added four people to our ranks, three in Regulatory Division and one at St. Stephen. Take a minute to get to know them and welcome them.



Randy Fowler -- Randy is a Biologist in the Permit Evaluation Branch. Randy previously worked for NRCS as a Soil Scientist. He has a Soil Science degree from North Carolina A&T and an Environmental Science Masters degree from Ohio State. He and his wife Cindy have two daughters, Megan and McKenzie. Randy loves volleyball and is President of the Tri-County Volleyball Association.

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Trisha Miller "An unexpected blank check"



Tracy Hurst -- After a short time in the Louisville District, Tracy joined our Regulatory Division in January. Like fellow new employee Randy, Tracy is a Biologist in the Permit Evaluation Branch. She has an Environmental Studies degree from Vanderbilt and a Masters in Forestry and Wildlife Management from the University of Kentucky. Tracy says she's enjoying her new job and is happy to be here.



Christianna Fralix -- A former Transportation Assistant with the 841st Transportation Battalion (MTMC), Christianna is now a Regulatory Clerk with the District. She had been with the government 13 years prior to joining the District team. She is the mother of one son, Phillip, and lives in Moncks Corner. Christianna says she is looking forward to working with the Corps.



Troy Swofford -- Troy is our newest employee at St. Stephen, where he is an Electrician.

He completed the Hydropower Training Program in August 2000, and transferred here from the Savannah District in February. His first experience in Charleston was when he was traveling for the Navy. He liked the area and thought it would be a nice place to live. Troy is currently building a house in Goose Creek.

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Diresert Haynes "A new wardrobe"

April Miller --Our newest Student Aide joined the staff in March. April is a graduate of College of Charleston with a degree in Biology. She is currently working on a Masters Degree in Library Science through USC distance learning. She works in the Executive Office 35 hours per week. She is originally from Summerville, though she now lives in West Ashley. She says everyone here has been really nice to her and she enjoys her job.



Since the last edition of the Dispatch, we have had several employees leave. We wish them well in their endeavors.


Francis Limbaker -- Francis retired from Federal service after 32 years of service. His days will now be filled with bird watching and woodworking.

David Rich -- David retired on 3 January after serving as our Public Affairs Officer for 11 years. David has moved to Oklahoma where he is enjoying the life of a retiree.

Mildred (Andy) Hamel -- Joining the ranks of retirees was one

of our St. Stephen employees. Mildred retired on 3 April after 26 years. Enjoy your retirement!

Veronica Marco -- The Veteran's Administration Medical Center (VAMC) picked up one of our employees in January. Veronica, a Regulatory Clerk, accepted a permanent position with the agency in January. We wish her lots of luck in her new job.

Lorraine Chambers -- Lorraine worked as a Secretary for both Design and Construction-Operation Branches. She left the Corps in March to spend more time with her family. 


New Addition to St. Stephen Project

As the newest hydropower facility in the Corps, the St. Stephen Powerhouse came online in 1985. Since that time we have modified the fishlift portion of the facility to add attraction flow and a bypass system. Now the District will be modifying the project again, this time to add a unique safety feature - a pedestrian walkway.

The part of the canal just upstream of St. Stephen Powerhouse has been a favored spot of local fishermen since its construction in the mid-80s. It is a great place to catch striped bass and catfish. Historically, area fisherman have come to the lake and staked out a coveted space near the south intake retaining wall. The turbulent water caused by the operation of the intake is a great place to cast in hopes of catching striped bass. In order to cast a lure in just the right spot, fisherman often jump or walk out on the rocks that support the fencing and then cast over the fence. While the initial thought

might be "What's the big deal," a closer examination reveals a serious safety consideration. Fishermen often stumble and fall when navigating the rocks along the fence and on the toe of the slope. A serious injury could occur as the result of a fall. As the number of fisherman have increased over the years, it became clear that something had to be done to address the safety concern.

After much discussion, it was decided that the placement of a pedestrian walkway near the area would alleviate much of the risk. The walkway would be much wider than the narrow row of rocks, therefore providing users with more stable footing. Additionally, it would provide access to non-anglers who want a better view of the operation of the hydropower facility. Engineers in the Design Branch determined the design criteria. Their efforts yielded a 150-foot long, 10-foot wide, single-span walkway constructed of weathering steel. Bids were solicited and the walkway was procured from Eagle Bridge, a company in Ontario, Canada, for a price of \$70,853. Once procured and inspected, a second round of bids was solicited for the installation of the walkway. Cape Romain Contractors, Inc. was awarded the contract, and they will begin the \$100,000 installation in early April. Installation should be complete in late May, after which time the District will host a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The public's safety is always a top concern at all Corps projects," said Safety Officer Mark Turner. "The installation of the walkway will afford the public a safer means of accessing the area upstream of the dam." 

Employees Benefit from Cross Training Assignment



Do you ever get tired of doing the same thing day after day? Wonder what its like for the folks that work in the Lowcountry Office? Well, thanks to two different opportunities, Amy Henke of Regulatory and Cynthia Ruddy of Design Brach were able to get a glimpse of a world outside their cubicles.

Amy came to the District on the Department of Army (DA) Intern program in 1999. A managerial engineer by degree, the DA program allowed Amy to work for a short time in the different areas of the District. This was to not only learn what the different sections in the District do, but also to find a place that

she liked and that fit her skills and ambitions. As part of her rotation, Amy was assigned to Construction Branch. What awaited her was very different than the cubicle life she had been living. Amy was going to serve as a Quality Assurance (QA) Inspector. The duties of the inspector seem simple on the surface: go to the construction site and make sure the contractors are complying with the contract. When the site is out in the middle of Charleston Harbor or out on Folly River, inspection takes on a whole new meaning. "Like many people, I had visions of the QA Inspectors' days spent gliding across the harbor on an

open boat, warm breeze on your face and sun glittering off the water," says Henke. "There are days like that, but I also quickly found out that there are reams of paperwork to complete and that for every sunny day on the boat there is often a windy, bitterly cold day that would make you long for the warmth of the truck heater." As Amy mentioned, inspectors do more than ride the waves. They are responsible for knowing everything about the contract they are administering. That can be tough, especially on multi-year contracts that involve many different pieces of equipment and a myriad of modifications and drawing revisions. During her five months at the Lowcountry Office, Henke gained a huge respect for the people employed there. Everyone has to work together and get along in order to effectively administer the contract. And everyone has to know all the aspects of the contract.

Cynthia Ruddy has worked in Design Branch for 14 years. She was given the opportunity for a cross training assignment due to a shift in workload. The Lowcountry had an imbalance between the volume of work they had to

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Jim Whiteman "Godiva Chocolates, Only the best!"

execute and the number of employees they had to execute it. A call for volunteers went out and Cynthia answered.

With the approval of her supervisor, she was detailed to the Lowcountry Office initially for 120 days, but the detail soon stretched into almost a full year. "I was a little scared the first day I had to go out," said Cynthia. "I was watching the crew boat bounce on the whitecaps, then fighting motion sickness and looking at the huge dredge. But I continued on and the guys on the dredge were helpful so I quickly got used to it."

Amy and Cynthia were the first female inspectors in the District for many years. "Initially contractors were concerned about safety for the women. Transferring on to and off of a dredge can at times require a high level of agility and upper body strength, as can other operations on the dredge," noted Kevin Widner, Resident Engineer. But those concerns quickly vanished. Once the women started their job, the contractors were pleased with their performance. "They knew I didn't grow up on a tug boat or dredge, so they made sure I could board safely," explained Amy. "But they didn't treat me like a child; they assumed I was willing to get dirty - climb over and around stuff (to get the job done). In fact, I had one crewman say he respected me for being willing to 'give it a go'."

How did this assignment benefit the women? Henke summed it up this way: "The biggest thing I learned in my rotational assignment was no job is what it seems to everyone else." Cynthia's response was similar: "The inspectors and the surveyors are a hard working group of people and quite frankly, we should all tip our hats to them. It's not all sunny boat rides. There's a lot of paperwork, drawing revisions, filing, and quantity calculations that have to be done. And some days the sunny morning makes the dredge an iron



skillet by afternoon and you just hope for a cool rain to come your way."

Cynthia and Amy weren't the only people to benefit from the cross training assignment. "The District overall benefits from this type of training," stated Widner. "Being able to understand the implementation side of the projects we design helps folks when they work on their next design project. They have a better feel for how the contracts have to be bid and what goes into administering the contracts." Widner went on to say that he would welcome similar assignments in the future when the workload of both the Lowcountry Office and the District office allow for it. "Both Cynthia and Amy did a real good job as inspectors. They were able to learn a good deal and now they can take that knowledge back to the District and share it with others."

The next time there is an opportunity to assist the Lowcountry Office, consider it. The rewards can be great, especially on sunny Spring days.

A Collaboration of Many Agencies Brings Bio-Engineering to the AIWW

By Tommy Socha



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a navigable channel in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) for national defense purposes. When the waterway was initially constructed, back in the 1940's, barges could travel up and down the waterway protected from attack by enemy vessels. Less of a defense consideration now, the Corps continues to maintain the channel for barge operations, much like the Federal Highway Administration maintains the interstate highway system. Maintenance operations consist of removing sediments from the authorized channel prism. The primary sediment source is adjacent streambanks that are composed of easily erodible silts and sands. Environmental and man-made forces eroding the banks come from tidal influences, surface drainage, seepage, and wave wash due to boat traffic and wind generated waves. Erosion of streambanks along the

AIWW is a continuing problem and particularly affects the disposal areas adjacent to the waterway. Conventional erosion control methods consist of armoring the streambank to make the bank resistant to erosive forces. Using rip-rap or other structural features to armor the streambank is a very costly solution and, therefore, is not used above the wave run-up elevation. The erodible soils affected by surface run-off need to be stabilized by less expensive alternatives. To that end, a research program was devised by Tommy Socha of the Geotechnical Team to study the efficiency of bio-engineering solutions along the AIWW. Tommy consulted with AIWW Project Manager Gary McAlister regarding the idea, and Gary agreed to provide funding for the project through Operations and Maintenance funds earmarked for maintenance along the AIWW. Tommy then invited

Dr. William Conner, who is a

forester with Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, and State Agronomist Gene Hardee of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to participate in this study. Clemson and NRCS provided expert technical assistance in determining what species of grasses and shrubs should be used in the various phases of the study. Since a large portion of the AIWW flows through Horry County, Tommy and his team met with representatives of the county to discuss the planned demonstration project. Horry County was interested in the project and made significant contributions of time and equipment during the initial phases of the program.

A demonstration planting was initiated on an existing Corps of Engineers disposal area near Carolina Forest, an 18,000-acre site under development near Myrtle Beach, S.C. The slope along the AIWW was originally covered with a mixture of kudzu on the upper slope and phragmites and three-square grass on the lower slope. The soils under the kudzu were eroding, from runoff across the slope. The kudzu was removed and the bank was graded in preparation for planting in July 2000. Trees, shrubs, and grasses were selected for planting to stabilize the slope. The day after planting began Myrtle Beach was hit with over 11 inches of rain. The slope was severely eroded, and the project evolved from one of planting to one of bank stabiliza-

tion. Methods used to stabilize the bank included the use of erosion mats, hay bales, and seeding with grass.

Unfortunately, none of the erosion control methods were entirely successful. Subsequently, Mr. Hollis Allen, an erosion expert from the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station was brought in under the Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS) Program. After consultation with District personnel and a site visit, Mr. Allen recommended the use of contour wattling. Contour wattling is the process of packing lengths of woody plant material into bundles 8 to 10 inches in diameter laid end to end in a trench along the slope contour. Soil is packed over the bundles so that about 80 percent of the bundle is covered. The woody pieces in the bundle sprout and create a living fence that traps sediment to protect the slope from erosion. Hollis Allen and Tommy Socha collaborated to prepare bid documents and a contract was awarded to Joppa Maintenance Co., Inc. of North Carolina to procure and install the wattlings. The use of a purchase order under small purchase procedures was recommended by Joyce Cartwright and proved to be very effective for this project. The contractor started the installation of the contour wattlings on February 26, 2001.

Hollis Allen and Tommy Socha assisted in the supervision and inspection of the project. The first step in the project was to grade the eroded area using a bulldozer and a backhoe. Then


8-inch trenches were dug on contour at 8-foot intervals where



the wattlings were to be placed. The next step was to hydro-seed the slope using a special seed mix, followed by placement of an erosion control blanket on the slope and down through the trenches. The wattlings were laid in the trench and staked down using live willow branches with 3-foot long stakes. Once the wattlings were secured, they were covered with compacted dirt, leaving 2 inches of the wattling exposed. In five days the contractor was able to install 36,000 square feet of erosion control fabric and 3,300 linear feet of wattling.

During this time Larry Hanford of the Environmental Resources Team and Tommy Socha installed hundreds of live stakes to help secure highly erodable areas. Live stakes are sharp pointed willow stems approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inches in diameter and 1 to 2 feet long. The live stakes were placed 1 to 2 feet apart and driven into the ground leaving 4 to 6 inches of branch exposed. These stakes take root in a couple of

weeks and form a root mass that secures the soil and halts erosion. Larry and Tommy also installed approximately 50 feet of brush layering, a process which entails digging 2 to 3 feet into a slope at a 10-degree angle, laying 3 to 4 inches of willow branches and covering the branches with 4 to 6 inches of soil. This step was repeated several times, gradually moving up the slope till the entire slope was secured. The entire project was completed in 7 days.

Now that the contour wattles are in place, the next step is to plant native plant species between the contours. The slope will be monitored by Dr. Conner and evaluated to determine which species are preferred for erosion control in this environment. Future sites along the AIWW will be chosen for protection using the plants and techniques that prove most economical and successful. 

**What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Robin Socha "Eight hours of uninterrupted sleep"**

Supreme Court Ruling on Isolated Waters & Wetlands

By Don Hill with Contributions from Jon Jellema

In January, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling in a case known as "SWANCC" (pronounced 'swank') which struck down Clean Water Act jurisdiction over isolated, intra-state waters and wetlands. This overruled a decision by the U.S. District Court and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals which both held that Clean Water Act jurisdiction was appropriately applied in this matter. It is difficult to explain the nature and effect of this case without getting into some of the finer legal points, particularly as they relate to the many remaining unanswered questions. To simplify, try to visualize a pond with some vegetated wetlands around the edges that is completely surrounded by high ground. There is no surface connection of any kind - no creek or ditch or outflow stream on the surface of the ground that allows the water in the pond or adjacent wetlands to flow directly into larger streams or rivers. This is the type of landscape feature that the Supreme Court, in a 5 to 4 split decision, decided Congress did not intend to regulate under the Clean Water Act.

The case in question involved the Sewer and Water Authority of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) near Chicago, Illinois, a consortium of 23 municipalities. SWANCC owned land, which had been mined for sand and gravel, then abandoned, and had reverted to a natural state. The mostly shallow

ponds, totaling about 31 acres, had fish in them, trees had grown up around and in them, and the site was used by lots of birds - many of them "migratory birds" protected under Migratory Bird Treaties. In the briefs filed by the Government, it was stated that "(a)mong the species that have been seen nesting, feeding, or breeding at the site are mallard ducks, wood ducks, Canada geese, sandpipers, kingfishers, water thrushes, swamp [sparrows], redwinged blackbirds, tree swallows, and several varieties of herons... Each of the above-listed species is on the list of migratory bird species protected under international treaties...[T]he site is a seasonal home to the second-largest breeding colony of great blue herons in northeastern Illinois, with approximately 192 nests in 1993. More than 50 species of birds are known to

**What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Doug Marcy "A vacation"**

breed on the site". SWANCC wanted to fill in these ponds as part of their nonhazardous solid waste disposal operations. The Corps asserted Clean Water Act jurisdiction over the wetlands and ponds. The legal basis for this was the use of the area by migratory birds as a "nexus" or link to interstate commerce. The Corps denied them a permit to fill the area. They sued. The District Court in Chicago ruled in favor of the

Corps. SWANCC appealed. The Seventh District Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Government. SWANCC appealed to the Supreme Court.

The issues boiled down to the following, as presented at the outset of the Government's brief filed with the Supreme Court:

In the instant case, the Corps determined that a series of permanent and seasonal ponds and small lakes on petitioner's property are "waters of the United States" because they are used as habitat by numerous species of migratory birds. The questions presented are as follows:

1. Whether the Corps' determination that the waters at issue are subject to its regulatory jurisdiction is based on a permissible construction of the Clean Water Act.

2. Whether use of the waters as migratory bird habitat is a constitutionally sufficient basis for the exercise of federal regulatory jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Corps had exceeded its authority under the Clean Water Act. They stated that they found "nothing approaching a clear statement from Congress that it intended §404(a) to reach an abandoned sand and gravel pit." The Court went on to say that "(p)ermitting (the Corps) to claim federal jurisdiction over ponds and mudflats falling within the 'Migratory Bird Rule' would result in a

significant impingement of the States' traditional and primary power over land and water use." While the Court saw "significant constitutional questions raised by (the Corps') application of their regulations," it did not reach the issue of the constitutionality of Clean Water Act jurisdiction over isolated waters. In a strongly worded dissenting opinion representing the minority of the Court, Justice Stevens wrote extensively on the history of the Clean Water Act and the interstate commerce connection issue. He concluded that "(w)hether it is necessary or appropriate to refuse to allow petitioner to fill those ponds is a question on which we have no voice. Whether the Federal Government has the power to require such permission, however, is a question that is easily answered. If, as it does, the Commerce Clause empowers Congress to regulate particular 'activities causing air or water pollution, or other environmental hazards that may have effects in more than one State,'...it also empowers Congress to control individual actions that, in the aggregate, would have the same effect...There is no merit in (SWANCC's) constitutional argument."

Thus, here are the Court's two sides of the issue. The thing that is reasonably clear is that the Corps no longer has jurisdiction over isolated, intrastate (lying wholly within one state) waters and wetlands pursuant to the Migratory Bird Rule. Some of the questions

yet to be answered include:

- What other connections to interstate commerce might make such waters subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction (other than migratory bird use)?


- Is this type of action still allowable in light of the decision? If it is, what activities are relevant?

- What about the other issues in the regulations which contained the Migratory Bird Rule, including use by endangered or threatened species or use for the irrigation of crops? Are these ruled out or not?

- Jurisdiction remains in place for navigable or interstate waters, their tributaries and their adjacent wetlands. Part of the definition of "adjacent" includes the term "neighboring" waters or wetlands separated by natural or man-made barriers. Just how far do you have to get away from a stream before the wetland is no longer "neighboring" and is no longer "adjacent"?

These and many related issues are currently being hotly debated around the country. There is an interagency group in Washington currently working on guidance for the field. Only time will tell what the outcome of that will be or when it may be expected. The bottom line and best advice for people now is "Don't go off half-cocked thinking that because you heard there was a roll-back in Corps wetlands jurisdiction that you can simply do whatever you like wherever you like." That is not true. It should be clearly noted

that the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to exclude certain waters and wetlands from federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act has no effect on any state or local government restrictions or requirements concerning aquatic resources, including wetlands. The public is strongly cautioned to ascertain whether such restrictions or requirements exist for the area in question before undertaking any activity which might destroy or otherwise impact these wetland resources. Just as important, there are limits to what has been taken out of jurisdiction and the interpretation can be difficult. It's clearly in a landowners' best interest to ask the Corps for an interpretation before undertaking action which might result in costly restoration or fines as the result of an enforcement action. The last piece of advice is to be patient - do not expect a quick answer. Our office, and the Corps nationwide, is besieged with requests for clarification, piled on top of the more than 1,600 such requests for wetland determinations we normally receive in a year.

If you still have questions about the impacts of the Supreme Court ruling on the Corps' Regulatory Program, contact Don Hill or Jon Jeltema. 

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Pat Baremore "Early Retirement"

E3 Energize, Empower, and Educate

This column provides District employees an opportunity to learn a little something about their colleagues and what they do to help execute our mission. In this issue we feature folks from Regulatory, Logistics, Project Management, Internal Review and Construction.



Peggy Garten - Program Analyst

Every time we fill out our time sheets, we note the projects we work on and the charge code associated with it. Did you ever wonder exactly where the money to pay us comes from and how it gets into our paycheck? Well the person to thank (other than your timekeeper) when you get a paycheck is Peggy. She is responsible for processing all of the funding that comes into the District. She sets up all the work items, including codes for reimbursable work, so the project managers can start doling out the money we need to accomplish our work. Working on the Pro-

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?
Yvette Jenkins "I second Lynn's request"

grams side of the house, Peggy is also responsible for preparing the District's budget submissions that are part of the Corps' overall budget which is submitted to OMB and to Congress. Throughout the year, Peggy also prepares fact sheets and briefings to support the budget and project funding, provides information for Congressional interests and, occasionally, reprograms funds from one project to another.

Peggy has worked for the District for 20 years. Her husband Paul works for the U.S. Postal Service and is a licensed sea captain. She volunteers at Ft. Lamar, a historical battery site located on James Island, and enjoys exercising at the gym. When asked what is the best thing about working at the Corps, she replied, "The opportunities for advancement and knowing that my chain of command has confidence in my ability to perform my job with limited need of supervision." Peggy's favorite food is chocolate, so if you want to thank her for all she does for the District, leave a Hershey bar on her desk.

Ken Howard - Auditor

We all see Ken in the hall everyday and we know that he works in Internal Review, but many of us aren't able to articulate the duties of Ken's job.

Here's how Ken described his duties. "I am here to provide the Commander with an independent assessment of any function or mission in the District." In a nutshell, that means that at the Commander's request, or at the request of SAD, HQUSACE or Department of Army, Ken can review an ongoing or completed mission to evaluate economy, efficiency, and compliance with law and regulation. Examples of this could be timekeeping procedures and documentation, contract administration, etc. In a typical month, Ken has to provide information to Division, Headquarters and Army in support of mandated reviews. He also responds to requests from external audit agencies such as the Army Audit Agency (AAA), Government Accounting Agency (GAO) and Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG). Ken often has to play the role of "Devil's Advocate" in meetings, providing the auditor's point of view to the Commander when major decisions are made. "If there is a problem or a potential problem, bring it forward early. I am here to help," stated Ken.

Ken has been in the District since 1980, although part of that time was as an SAD employee. Prior to working for the Corps, Ken was employed by the Department of Energy in Virginia and the Veteran's Administration in Texas. When not at work, Ken spends his time at home with his wife Kathy and their two dogs. His hobbies

E3 Energize, Empower, and Educate



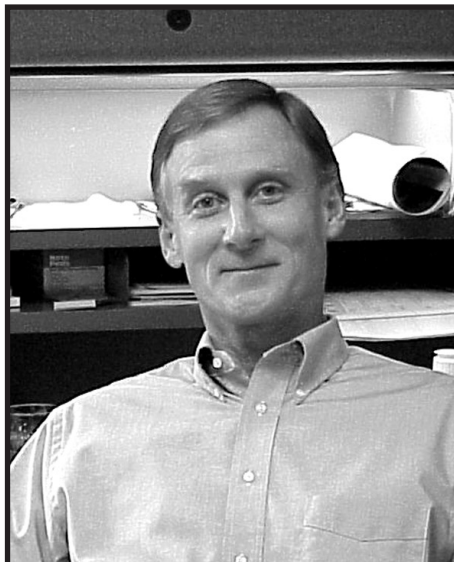
include radio monitoring, computers, home repair, and fishing when he has time. When asked what he would do if he were Commander for a day, Ken's answer was simple, "Go fishing!"

Angie Williams - Logistical Support Assistant

"Angie, I need a car quick! I'll give you the PR&C number when I get back!" This is an all too familiar call that most of us have made at one time or another. And each time Angie is there to support us in our request and always with a smile. But serving as the District's equivalent to an Avis agent is not the sole duty of Ms. Williams. She is responsible for many other programs. For example, Angie is responsible for administering our Corporate Airline Account and making sure that we can all get airline tickets when we need them. She administers the Suggestion Program as well as pro-

cessing all PCS orders for new employees. She coordinates with GSA to pay them for vehicle use and to keep the District fleet of vehicles in good repair. Angie is the timekeeper for LM, RM and CPAC, and is the alternate Transportation Officer and alternate Property Book Officer. As one can see, virtually everyone in the District depends on Angie to provide us the necessities so we can continue to execute our mission.

A part of the District since 1994, Angie came to us from the Polaris Missile Base in Goose Creek. She is the proud Mom of an adopted son Antonio and three foster sons Patrick, Daniel and Nicholas. She is active in her church, serving as a missionary and a member of the choir. If given the opportunity to invite three people to a dinner party at her house, Angie said she would invite Martin Luther King, Jesus Christ, and her best friend Liza Jamerson. Angie's hobbies are bowling



and fishing. I guess she will really enjoy the fishing trip she won at the Chili Cook-off.

Dean Herndon - Regulatory Project Manager

As a Project Manager in the Permit Evaluation Section of Regulatory, Dean spends the majority of his time in the office with a lesser amount of his time traveling to project sites and various meetings. Next week he will be attending a meeting with the SCE&G Co. and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), concerning the Lake Murray-Saluda Dam rehabilitation project. Dean is responsible for processing permit applications for a number of activities that will affect navigable waters and wetlands in South Carolina. Permit applications are required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These laws require activities which involve the obstruction or alteration of our nation's navigable waterways and the discharge of dredged or fill material in wetlands. Permits issued for wetland fills normally require mitigation. The permit process allows public and resource review agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed activities prior to reaching a deci-

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?

Jim Brannon "Big Honey Bunny"

E3 Energize, Empower, and Educate

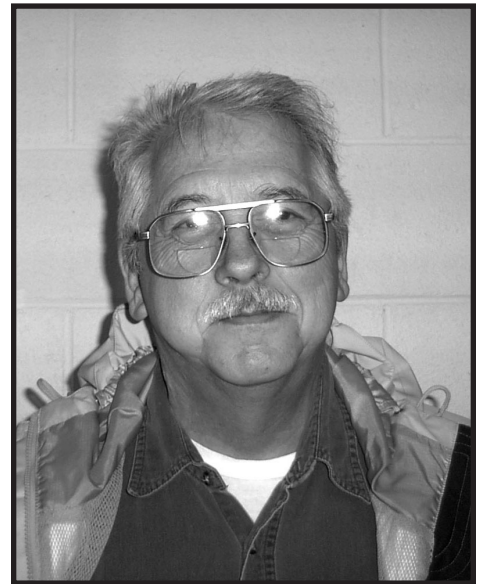
sion on a permit. This process also requires the joint coordination with other regulatory agencies, primarily with the Bureau of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in coastal areas and SCDHEC in inland areas of the State. Once all comments have been received and the appropriate state permits granted or denied, the Corps renders a decision on the Federal permit. At this time Dean is responsible for managing approximately 60 actions. Dean is one busy guy!

Dean started with the District in 1974 as part of Engineering Division. He has worked in Regulatory since 1980. He is an avid hunter and fisherman, as well as a recreational farmer. He and his wife of 29 years, Janice, are the parents of Brian and Caroline. They have one granddaughter Maddie and are active in their church. When asked what is the best thing about working for the Corps, Dean said "The Corps provides opportunity for professional growth and opportunities to help others during times of crisis." Even though he's a busy man, if you ever have questions about the Regulatory Program, give Dean a call. He would be happy to help you out.

Fred South - Construction Representative

Fred is one of four Construction Representatives in the Low-country Office. He is responsible for oversight of the \$74 million Entrance Channel contract. It is Fred's duty to see that the contractors adhere to all the portions of the contract, including safety and documentation. Also as a part of his duties, Fred must inspect all equipment to be used on the job. "We work with the contractors as a partner," said Fred. "I serve as the liaison." And the job is not just riding around on the water. There are a ton of reports that have to be filed, inspections documented, and submittals processed. And Fred does all of this in the course of a day.

Employed by the District since 1992, Fred previously worked at the Naval Shipyard. Fred says his Marine and Navy background helps him with his job as Construction Representative. The proud parents of three girls, he and his wife Rose just celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary. They also have two grandsons and two granddaughters. He enjoys camping and photography and says that if he could only have one food for the rest of his life, it would be spaghetti. 🍝



What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?

Bruce Seltzer "Pig cooker"

Marlene Judy "I want Aarin to come back to EM."

Gail Simmons "2 tennis racquets and some balls"

What do you want the Easter Bunny to bring you?

Beth Barber "A new dining room set"

Protecting Marine Life While Performing Our Navigation Mission

By Robert Chappell and Robin Socha

The various species of sea turtles, including the threatened Loggerhead Turtle, which frequent the South Carolina coast can bank on the Charleston District doing its best to assure that these visits are as safe as possible.

The current Charleston Harbor Deepening, spanning a period of six years, calls for the removal of 37 million cubic yards of material to provide a harbor depth of 45 feet. In addition to the Deepening Project, there is also Operation and Maintenance that is performed within the entrance channel, an average of 700,000 cubic yards per cycle. With both projects ongoing, we have had as many as six dredges operating in the harbor at one time. While use of all these dredges is necessary to keep the project moving on schedule, it does necessitate close environmental coordination to protect marine life.

A variety of dredge types are currently used for Corps projects, including the hydraulic cutterhead, the dipper, the dustpan, the side-caster, the clamshell/bucket, and the hopper dredge. In the Charleston District, cutterhead and clamshell/bucket dredges are typically used within harbors and protected waters while the hoppers are used for entrance channel dredging at Port Royal, Charleston, and Georgetown Harbors. Sidecasters are used only in special circumstances where disposal sites are not available. The cutterheads, clamshell/bucket, and sidecast dredges are generally considered compatible with sea life; however, sea turtles have presented some

interesting challenges for hopper dredging. Acting like a huge vacuum cleaner, the hopper moves along the channel while the draghead vacuums up whatever is in its path, including the occasional turtle burrowed in the sediment. As a result, the Corps of Engineers has expended a great deal of time, effort, and funding to research methods and protocols for protecting sea turtles.

Because of this research, the dredging industry now uses special deflectors on the dragheads that actually push the turtles out of the way. In addition, hopper dredging is limited to a "window" of activity during the cooler months of the year when the turtles are generally not present. These windows have been established through coordination (using Biological Assessments and Biological Opinions) with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The purpose of the window is to restrict hopper dredging activity to those times of the year when turtle activity/presence is at a minimum. In addition to using dredging windows, turtle and whale observers are present on the hoppers during certain months to assure that all equipment is in place and utilized correctly. Further, protocols specific to the South Atlantic Division (SAD) have been established for addressing those occurrences when a turtle is taken by the dredge. These protocols include utilizing experts from the Waterways Experiment Station (WES) to inspect the deflectors and determine if the equipment

is in place and working properly. Should climatic conditions cause sea turtles to be present in the dredging area during the "dredging window," trawlers are hired to net and re-locate the turtles to a safe area away from the hopper. For those times when unusual weather patterns or animal activity causes a conflict, District personnel proceed through a pre-established formal consultation process with the NMFS to determine what course of action should be taken, i.e., whether it is prudent to continue dredging, change dredging locations, or stop dredging activity until conditions change. Where a turtle take does occur, a description of the incident is posted on the Corps turtle newsgroup for all to access and review. The lessons learned from such an incident are valuable to all coastal Districts.

The Charleston District has used trawlers to protect turtles several times over the past few years. The most recent use was in March and April 2000. The presence of a dead turtle was the initial event that started the use of the established protocol for dealing with the presence of turtles during a dredging cycle. A trawler was deployed on 19 March (within 48 hours of notification) and continued to sweep the area in front of the hoppers until the hoppers finished their dredging on 17 April. The trawlers collected and relocated several turtles during their sweeps.

This spring the use of trawlers was unnecessary. Turtle observers were present on the hopper dredge from February to March,

with no turtles spotted. This season's unusually cool spring kept the harbor temperatures low and, therefore, deterred the turtles from migrating into the dredging areas. The temperatures began rising just as the hopper was finishing its work, necessitating only nine days of 24-hour turtle watches. Through good fortune and vigilance, no turtles were taken during our spring hopper operations. The hopper dredge EAGLE 1 completed its work and left the harbor on 10 March. Dredging will continue in the harbor using different equipment, such as bucket dredges, until the project is finished. The hoppers will return in the fall after the turtles have traveled south for the winter.

Execution of the Nation's navigation mission is important. As with all our projects, mission execution cannot be done without careful consideration of the environment. By using the established protective protocols, the District and the Division are protecting sea turtles so that we can all have a more balanced ecosystem in which to live.



District Undergoes PMBP Inspection

By Elmer Schwingen

First and foremost, a great big THANK YOU to all of you who made the Project Management Business Process (PMBP) review a success! WE PASSED! More importantly is a thank you for those who have made the PMBP a part of how you operate. However, much remains to be done.

We must utilize Project Management Plans (PMPs) to plan and execute specific missions. It is up to PM to ensure that plans are prepared by the team and utilized. Plans must be tailored to the job and must be updated as necessary to keep them viable. The plan is not a separate task, but an integral part of how we manage the execution of a project. In addition, over the next several months, we will be instituting a new and improved (well at least new) automated management system to replace PROMIS. We are told that the transition to the new system, P2, will be automatic and will not require manual input of data that already exists in the PROMIS/PPDS database (time will tell or I'll believe it when I see it). The automated Resident Management System (RMS) is upon us and hopefully there will be an automatic link to P2. P2 and RMS should reduce upward reporting requirements.

The Board of Directors (BOD), which is made up of the Division Commander, Division SES's, the Division RM and the District Commander, has begun to tackle our need to reduce our various over-

head rates. In February, the BOD directed that a team be formed under LTC Held's direction to review our needs and recommend various mission/task reassignments. These recommendations will be aimed at lowering our district overhead practices that will facilitate any approved transfer of missions and/or taskings. So we all have a piece of the action! It's not only good business, but it is a necessity if we are to become/remain a full partner within the region.

In addition to regionalized business practices, Joe Coates has headed up a regional team to make recommendations regarding standard regional charging, and the Regional Management Board (RMB) has recommended not only his team's recommended standard charging, but also standard budgeting criteria to the BOD. Standard budgeting, charging, and business practices should add up to a stronger region and a stronger Charleston District!

Remember that technical execution is our business and the Project Management Business Process is how we manage that business. Everyone in the district, as well as our shareholders, is part of OUR business. Keep the PMBP pull out provided in the last Dispatch, look at it and see how YOU fit in. Your contribution is vital.

**BE SAFE, HAVE FUN, AND
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



District Participates in Coastal America Dedication


On 5 February the District participated in a ceremony designating the South Carolina Aquarium as a National Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) under the Coastal America Partnership. The SC Aquarium became the fourteenth in a national network of CELCs that are working with the Coastal America Partnership to promote outreach and awareness regarding stewardship of important coastal resources. The designation of this facility was recommended to the Coastal America Principals Group (chaired by Dr. Westphal) in October 2000 by the Coastal America SE Regional Implementation Team (SERIT). Dennis Barnett of SAD currently chairs this interagency regional team.

The Coastal America Principals Group was represented by Dr. Margaret Davidson, Acting Asst. Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. SC Governor James Hodges, Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley, and several state senators and representatives participated in the ceremony along with numerous media representatives and two local school groups. Thirteen Federal agencies/military services that are involved in the Coastal America Partnership participated in the ceremony, each one making a brief presentation and presenting token gifts and commitments to the SC Aquarium to support a variety of education and outreach activities.

LTC Held did an outstanding job representing Charleston District and the Corps of Engineers. He briefly spoke about Corps interests and activities in coastal areas and con-

veyed a sincere commitment to work with the SC Aquarium on mutually beneficial outreach and educational activities. He presented copies of several COE publications/brochures of wetlands and coastal resources; provided laminated copies of hurricane surge maps and an accompanying public information CD-ROM; committed to make COE experts available to serve as speakers, instructors, and field guides for special Aquarium events focused on coastal resource stewardship; committed to cooperate with the Aquarium staff in mobilizing local support and volunteers to assist with local habitat restoration projects; and agreed to make the floodplain model (housed in the Charleston District)

available to the Aquarium for special educational events. Chris Mack of the H&H Team demonstrated the model throughout the day, and it attracted quite a bit of attention. For anyone who has not seen the floodplain model, it is an excellent education and outreach tool for students and the general public.

Overall, the ceremony went very well. Participation in the Coastal America Partnership and collaboration with the SC Aquarium are excellent vehicles to interact with other agencies and the public regarding stewardship of coastal resources. These activities can help advance our strategic communications and relationship-building objectives outlined in the USACE Vision 



CHARLESTON DISTRICT TOWN HALL COIN PRESENTATION QUESTIONS

LTC Flowers - Part of my philosophy is that I want all of you to know your jobs and be situationally aware of the Army, the Corps, and things that affect us as an organization. I expect it.

Diane Carter - What was the name of the building and location of the district's HQ building between 1956-1961? (Copperthwait Building on King Street)

John Kassebaum - Can you tell me the names of the two civilians who have commanded the Charleston District (hint Marietta Cade wasn't one of them)? (James P. Allen (1917-1918) and Worth Candrick (1949))

Charles Harbin - What was the name of the first military command supported by the Charleston District and who commanded it? (Southeastern Military District in 1917 commanded by Major General Leonard Wood)

Linda Shealy - Colonel Quincy Gillmore was the first district commander, but do you know where he exercised his command from? (New York City with on-site resident engineers)

Nia Dozier - What was the contract amount for the original construction at Ft. Sumter? (\$778,724.70)

Joseph Morton - What is the name of the Charleston District snagboat used in 1896 to help clear debris from Georgetown Harbor. (The Little Pee Dee I)

Wayne Bieganousky - When was the South Carolina State Ports Authority established and what facilities did they first occupy? (The Quartermaster Depot docks were turned over to the newly formed State Ports Authority just after World War I)

Travis Hughes - We are currently experiencing a tremendous growth within the State of South Carolina. However, much the same was true just before and during World War II. Can you tell me what was the percent of per capita growth for South Carolina between say 1940 to 1941? (Approx. 300%, \$300 yearly per capita income in 1940 to \$900 in 1941)

Nathan Ball - Can you tell me when the first major district program was instituted to control mosquitoes by ditching disposal areas? (1955). Charleston District utilized a specialized piece of equipment in the 1980's to accomplish this ditching effort, The RUC (Riverene Utility Craft). In 1989, the remaining floats were removed from the storage yard downtown. How were these floats removed? (As debris from Hurricane Hugo)

Di Haynes - In 1955, a ship hit and closed the Ashley River Bridge. What was the name of that ship? (THE FORT FETTERMAN)

Kevin Widner - Can you tell me the name of the first hopper dredge, who designed it, and where it was utilized? (THE GENERAL MOULTRIE was designed by Nathaniel Lebby in 1855 for use in Charleston Harbor)

Yvette Jenkins - Can you tell me when my Intel stock will regain its value? (If I knew that, I wouldn't be working for the Corps of Engineers!)